



FACT SHEET

AFRTS Satellite Network (SATNET)

In 1969, the American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS) was among the first organizations to use satellites as a means of transmitting television programming. Today, AFRTS provides radio and television programming by satellite 24 hours-a-day, to 177 countries and U.S. territories.

Using an Intelsat Galaxy satellite, AFRTS provides satellite service to the U.S. base in Honduras and the Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Additionally, this satellite provides connectivity for the network's Atlantic and Pacific satellites.

Using an Intelsat satellite over the Atlantic Ocean, AFRTS serves DoD personnel in Africa, the Middle East, and on the islands of Diego Garcia, Iceland and the Azores (Portugal).

In the Pacific, two SES New Skies satellites carry the AFRTS signal to DoD personnel in Japan and Korea.

A satellite superstation concept is used in the European Hemisphere to deliver regional radio and television services. In Germany and Italy, the American Forces Network-Europe (AFN-E) uplinks to two Eurobird satellites which are received at sites throughout Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and many parts of Southwest Asia.

All AFRTS satellite transmissions use the Cisco PowerVu[®] digital compression system to allow the transmission of multiple channels of television and radio services over a single satellite transponder. This system employs digital conditional access encryption to protect the programming from being received by unauthorized audiences. SATNET provides full-time, live, radio and television services from the United States to service members, DoD civilians, and their families serving overseas.

